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# 1996 - Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes

Board of Trustees, Central Washington University

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**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
September 18, 1996  
10:00 a.m.**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Central Washington University was called to order by Board Chair Gwen Chaplin at 10:15 a.m. in the board room of Edmonds Community College at Lynnwood, Washington.

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Ms. Gwen Chaplin, Chair  
Mr. Frederic L. "Fritz" Glover  
Mr. Frank Sánchez  
Mr. Mike Sells  
Dr. R. Y. Woodhouse  
Mr. Wilfred Woods

**Absent:** Mr. Ron Dotzauer

**Others:** Ms. Judy Miller, Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Dr. Ivory Nelson, President  
Dr. Mike Wenger, Wenger & Wenger Consultants

Edmonds Community College President Jack Oharah welcomed the CWU Board to the Edmonds campus. He reviewed the opportunities and benefits enjoyed by Central Washington University and Edmonds Community College through their collocation agreement and expressed hope that this close, mutually beneficial relationship will continue.

As this special session was convened to discuss the role and structure of the board, the following two objectives for the session were established: 1) Develop a shared understanding of the role(s) of trustees; 2) Commit to process changes to accomplish those role(s) more effectively.

Initial discussion involved reviewing the meaning of *represent*. Also examined was the experience, expertise, and values individual trustees bring to the board, how that is communicated and perceived, and how trustees vote.

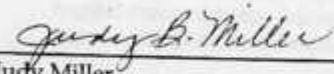
Discussion produced consensus that the board's important roles of strategic and fiduciary oversight, policy guidance, and enabling effective administration all demand a well-informed collaboration among the trustees. Further, in the larger Washington State higher education picture, individual trustees can positively affect public attitude. Legislatures can be lobbied effectively and public perception of the university can be heightened (if the trustees have the right information and develop the right skills and abilities). A variety of specific possibilities, mechanisms, and process enhancements to increase board effectiveness were discussed.


Development and training for trustees would clarify modes of effective board process and build skills, abilities, and knowledge. Orientation for new trustees should include specific briefing by the board regarding history and process. More board input about information flow, agenda setting

(including long-term agenda design), more effective information exchange outside board meetings, university/program accreditation briefings, and more effective use of study sessions are all areas for important potential improvement.

Further discussion on board structure is needed. Board bylaws define four committees--budget long-range planning, executive evaluation, and legislative--none of which is currently functioning. The board will continue exploring role and structure issues at its retreat and board meeting October 10-11, 1996.

No action was taken. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

  
Judy Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Central Washington University

  
Gwen Chaplin, Chair  
Board of Trustees  
Central Washington University